



Citizen AIRMEN

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Official Magazine of the Air Force Reserve

CALL of DUTY

**Law changes way Reservists
can be used during natural disasters,
homeland emergencies**

FROM THE TOP



By Maj. Gen. Craig N. Gourley
Vice Commander,
Air Force Reserve Command

New law helps Reservists respond at home

(Editor's note: In his June commentary, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. bid farewell to the command he has led since June 2008. With the new commander, Maj. Gen. James F. Jackson, not assuming his position until after the August issue went to press, this month's From the Top commentary is provided by the AFRC vice commander.)

A law passed by Congress and signed by the president in December provides the secretary of defense with the authority to mobilize members of the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve to support state and local governments in responding to disasters and emergencies. (For more information on this new law, see the story on Page 14.)

With the Air Force Reserve's prominence in missions such as aerial spray, aerial port, aeromedical evacuation and staging, and mortuary affairs, we bring critical capabilities to support state, local and tribal governments in responding to disasters and emergencies. Prior to the passage of this new law, the secretary of defense could use active-duty forces to respond to a governor's request, but Reservists could only be accessed through volunteerism. While Air Force Reservists have always been quick to volunteer to respond when disaster strikes, this law gives the secretary of defense the ability to access the necessary Reserve assets when they provide the quickest and most cost-effective response for the Department of Defense.

It is important to note that some things remain unchanged by the new law. The National Guard remains the governor's primary military support for disasters and remains under his or her command and control. Air Force Reserve commanders may still exercise immediate response by temporarily employing the resources under their control to save lives, prevent human suffering or mitigate great property damage within the United States. And, most importantly, Posse Comitatus continues to apply — Reservists who are mobilized for disasters and emergencies are prohibited from engaging in law enforcement activities.

This new authority is a fantastic opportunity for the Air Force Reserve. When disaster strikes our communities, we no longer have to sit on the sidelines and watch our National Guard and active-duty counterparts respond to our neighbors' needs. The Air Force Reserve can bring its considerable experience and expertise to answer our nation's call. ★

CHIEF'S VIEW



By Chief Master Kathleen R. Buckner
Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Air Force Reserve Command

My charge to you: Do your job

On one of my first early mornings in the office after assuming my new position, I sat with Lt. Col. Hal Linnean, assistant executive officer for the Air Force Reserve Command commander, discussing the way ahead for the enlisted force. Linnean said the minimum we can ask from our enlisted members is that they do their job. Doing your job has been the topic of my enlisted calls and has become a vital part of my everyday life.

What does doing your job mean to you? Is it conduct, work ethic, competency, quality, personal appearance or quantity? Does it matter what rank, Air Force specialty code, position, level or section you work in?

As members of the Air Force Reserve, we have a responsibility to conduct ourselves with pride and integrity, both on and off duty. Our Air Force core values are there as the foundation for our conduct and service. They bond us together as an organization and as Airmen.

Each one of us is accountable for our own actions, performance and attitude. We must acknowledge the good in ourselves and be proud of our ability and accomplishments. No different is the necessity to look within ourselves to see where we can improve. Continuous self-improvement will raise not only our self-esteem, but it will make our section, squadron and wing a better teammate in the total force working to accomplish the mission.

We live and work in a rapidly changing environment economically, technologically and socially. We owe it to ourselves, our customers, our co-workers and every American citizen to embrace the strengths these changes bring while remaining steadfast in our core values.

I ask you to do your job first and foremost as an Airman. Take pride in your appearance. We are judged first by our looks and then by our actions. Always remember that you are a wingman, leader and warrior. Practice good order, discipline and military bearing. If you hold yourself in compliance with Air Force standards and hold yourself accountable for your actions and performance, you help reinforce that culture around you.

It is imperative that you do your job as a technician as well. Every AFSC we have in our Air Force inventory is directly or indirectly working toward one goal, and what we do saves lives! We answer the call of our nation and the plea of many around the world for humanitarian and/or wartime support. It is your responsibility to be technically competent so that we can deliver on the promise we have made to ourselves and our nation when we put on this uniform.

Thank you for doing the right things, even when no one is looking. The sacrifices you and your families make so that you can serve are greatly appreciated and not forgotten. You continue to amaze me with your ability, performance and resourcefulness. I am proud to be your voice! So go out there and do your job. ★

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Reservists can stay connected with AFRLive

On the cover: From an HH-60 helicopter, Tech. Sgt. Keith Berry scans the flooded streets of New Orleans searching for survivors on Sept. 4, 2005. A provision of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act permits the secretary of defense to mobilize Air Force Reservists like Berry if they are needed to respond to natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. (Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. *Commander, Air Force Reserve Command*

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Guardian Angel forces assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., fire on opposing force unit members during a combat search and rescue mission at the Fort Polk Combined Arms Training Facility City Complex in Louisiana. The Airmen were part of a combat search and rescue mission sent to rescue isolated personnel from hostile forces in support of the Patriot Saint exercise. (Master Sgt. Jeff Walston)



RESERVE SNAPSHOT

Members of the 916th Air Refueling Wing Training Flight, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., push each other to the finish line during the wing's semi-annual Warrior Run. (Master Sgt. Wendy Lopedote)



A 910th Airlift Wing loadmaster from Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, gazes down at the beach in Normandy, France, from the open cargo area of a C-130H aircraft. 910th AW Airmen attended the annual re-enactment of D-Day at Normandy. (Tech. Sgt. Ben Sewall)



Master Sgt. David Sims and his family embrace during a surprise homecoming May 28 at the Atlanta Braves baseball game at Turner Field. Sims was returning from a six-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan. He is assigned to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command's Communications Directorate at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. (Jessica Blanton)



Master Sgt. Frederick Hageman III monitors the vital signs of mock patient Tech. Sgt. Michael Flaata during a routine training mission that was part of the conclusion of a joint mass casualty training exercise May 17. Both are from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. (Tech. Sgt. Anthony Springer)

Even the rain cannot stop friends and families from reuniting with Airmen of the 934th Airlift Wing as they return from overseas. The Airmen have been deployed since early 2012 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn. (Shannon McKay)



RESERVE SNAPSHOT



Staff Sgt. Andrew Vogel of the 345th Airlift Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., holds his daughter Lilly's hand before he leaves for deployment to Southwest Asia. (Maj. Heather Newcomb)

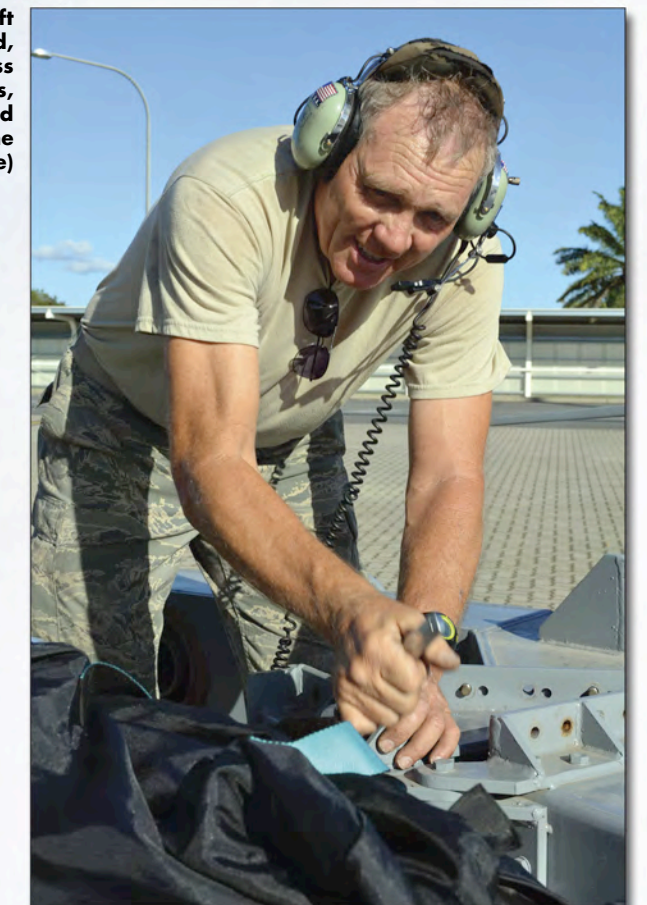
Reservists from the 414th Fighter Group, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., service their aircraft while playing opposing forces during an operational readiness exercise at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. The 414th led a total force integration team to support the exercise. (Master Sgt. Wendy Lopedote)



Master Sgt. Randy Moehring of the 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, prepares a tow bar to move a C-5A Galaxy across the Cairns International Airport flight line in Cairns, Australia. A team of 433rd Airlift Wing Airmen transported a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65C Dolphin helicopter back to the United States May 7. (Maj. Tim Wade)



Leonard Figueroa, a new Air Force Reserve recruit, completes push-ups during physical fitness testing as part of Development Training Flight activities. He and nine other new recruits were the first to participate in the DTF program, which debuted at the 419th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in May. (Staff Sgt. Kyle Brasier)



ROUND THE RESERVE

AFRC Working to Implement Laws That Allow Reservists to Carry Over Leave

Air Force Reserve officials are working to change policy to allow members who earn days of leave to carry those days over from year to year.

New laws and Department of Defense instructions permit Reservists to carry over the leave days. However, policy and procedures have not caught up with the new authority.

"This is a tremendous benefit to our Airmen who historically were forced to immediately use, sell or lose their leave," said Rickey Harrington, deputy chief of the Force Support Division in the Office of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon. "The new authority provides Reservists more flexibility on how they use leave earned during active-duty activations and mobilizations of 30 or more days."

For each month served on active duty, Reservists and active-duty people earn 2.5 days of leave, which amounts to 30 days of leave per year. However, active-duty people are also allowed to carry up to 60 days on the books as they cross the "use-or-lose" deadline on Oct. 1 each year. In addition, they can sell up to 60 days of leave during an entire career.

"While the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Air Force have moved out on putting this in the appropriate leave regulations, Air Force Reserve policymakers have yet to implement the authority because there are significant issues that need to be

addressed," said Col. Nancy C. Zbyszinski, director of personnel in the Office of Air Force Reserve.

One key issue is tracking the leave balance that Reservists will carry forward each year. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service, based in Indianapolis, is not set up to account for Reservists' leave beyond a single year.

According to financial managers at Headquarters Air Force, the leave software automatically pays out to Reservists if the leave is on record one year after the end-of-tour date.

DFAS is working to change the system and to prevent this automatic pay out, according to Lt. Col. C.J. Miller, deputy chief of the Force Sustainment and Requirements Branch in the Office of Air Force Reserve.

"We are working the last of the policy implementation issues, and once DFAS finalizes its system changes we'll push this out to the field," Zbyszinski said. (Col. Bob Thompson, Office of Air Force Reserve public affairs, Washington, D.C.)

Air Force Releases Updated Social Media Guide

Airmen and families have a new resource at their fingertips with the release of an updated and revised social media guide by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency in San Antonio, Texas.

The guide features sections geared toward all members of the total force and their families as well as Air Force leaders. It highlights topics including using social media effectively, security

awareness, social media platforms, public affairs programs and social media policy.

"Our social media team has made great strides in updating this guide," said Larry Clavette, AFPAA director. "Airmen and families will see a lot of information they can apply to their social networking practices, whether they've been using social media for years or are just coming onboard with the technology."

While information on social media has been around for several years, the types of platforms people use evolve and new ones start up nearly every day. Regardless of the social media platform used, or whether people use social media personally or professionally, many basic principles apply.

Operations security ranks first and foremost in the minds of many military members, but the casual nature of social media can easily lead to inadvertent sharing of sensitive personal information via personal profiles and accounts. Everyone should make sure they share personal information only with people they trust and understand that no matter how secure they set up their own accounts friends can unintentionally share details about their lives with people who may have malicious intentions.

Though the desire to protect personal information is one reason people may not join social media platforms, unfamiliarity with the platforms is another commonly cited reason for staying out of the social media arena.

"By now, many people are already using social media, so this guide doesn't focus on how to set up new personal accounts," said Capt. Amber Millerchip, deputy director of public communications at AFPAA. "Instead, we focused on how to communicate more effectively on some of the most commonly used social media platforms. We hope everyone finds something in the guide they can use in their personal or professional communications on these platforms."

The social media guide is available on the official website of the Air Force at <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120327-048.pdf>. Questions and comments about the guide can be directed to the AFPAA Social Media Division via the contact information on the guide's back cover. (Tech. Sgt. Karen Tomasik, AFPAA, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas)

Air University Offers Dual-Purpose Online Program

Pursuing intermediate development education and a master's degree are both important for majors and major-selects looking to advance their military careers. However, embarking on two challenging programs is very time-consuming, especially for Air Force Reservists who also have to worry about their civilian career and family commitments.

Now, Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is offering people an option to kill two birds with one stone. By completing the Air Command and Staff College Online Master's Program in Joint Warfare Concentration, majors and major-selects earn both IDE credit and a master's degree. The master's degree is in military operational art and science and is the same degree awarded to ACSC resident students.

The program comprises 11 eight-week classes and is open to active-duty, non-extended active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members. In addition, federal civil service employees, GS-12 or higher, with at least two years of service and a bachelor's degree are eligible to participate. However, people who have completed both a master's degree and IDE are not eligible for the program.

Information, including application instructions and points of contact, is available online at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/dlmasters.asp>. (Staff reports)

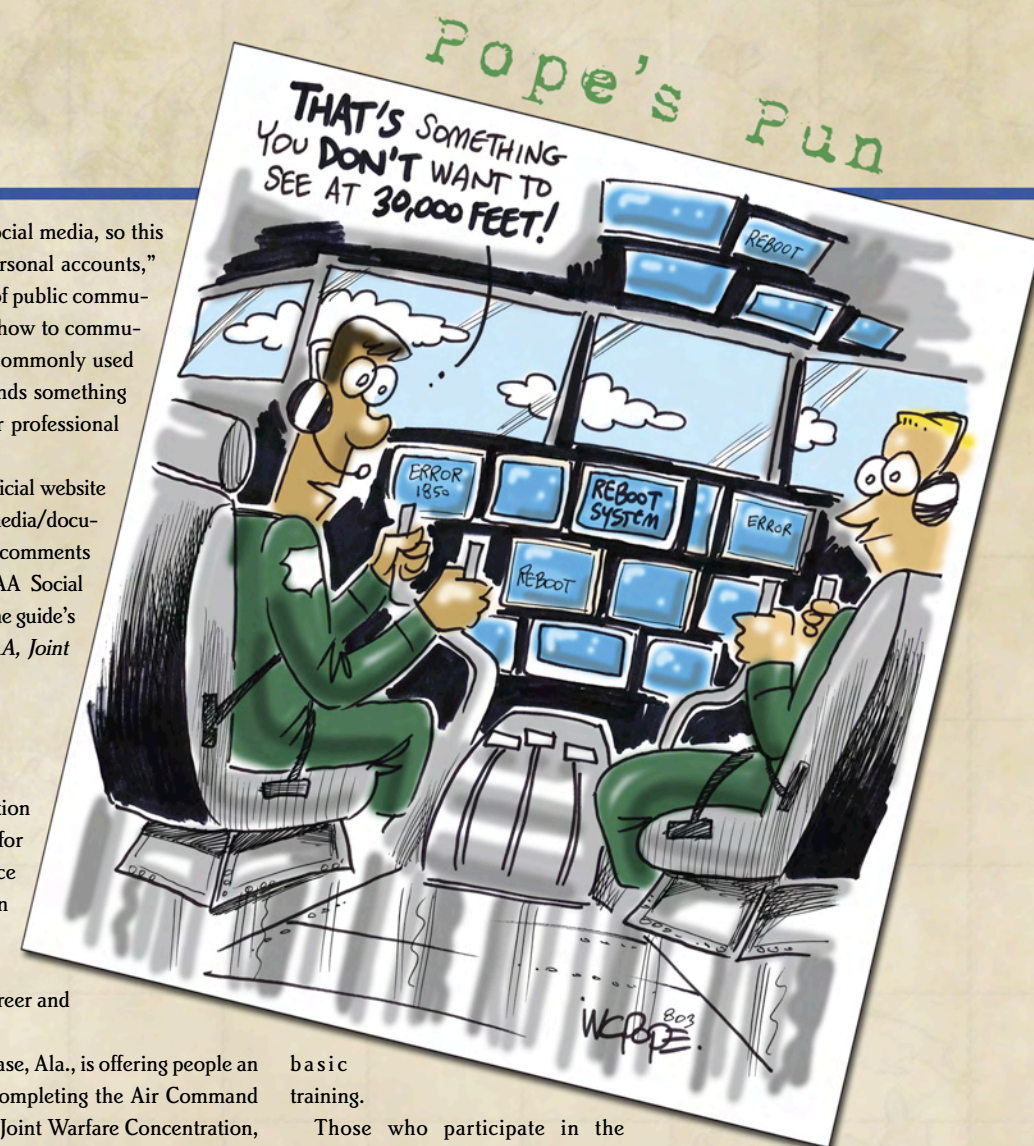
New Program Set Up to Prepare Reservists for Basic Military Training

Many Air Force Reservists entering basic military training no longer have to worry about fear of the unknown.

The newly formed development and training flight fills the gap between the time new Airmen enlist and the time they ship off to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic training — a period that often lasts many months. Filling this time gap provides benefits to new Airmen and to the Air Force.

Instead of waiting around for months and losing the enthusiasm and momentum that came with the decision to enlist, new Airmen who attend the development and training flight on training weekends can get paid to train and learn.

The Air Force benefits by having Airmen who are prepped to succeed in



Personnel services website has new name, address

By Capt. Lesley Lilly



myPers concept rapidly implements reliable, integrated and secure information technology to improve personnel services accessibility and usability."

The new name and URL will establish a unified total force brand for online personnel services.

"We're always looking for better ways to serve those who serve," said Col. Pat Blassie, commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. "Each technological advancement we can offer our customers from the Total Force Service Center is part of a longer-term strategy to deliver human resource services as quickly, as seamlessly and as efficiently as possible anytime and anywhere an Airman might be." ★

(Lilly is assigned to the Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower public affairs office at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.)

The Air Force Personnel Services website previously called AFPERS is now known as myPers and has a new address. Airmen can access myPers via a secure link, <https://mypers.af.mil>, to use existing personnel services information and transaction applications. All transactions are conducted within a secure environment, officials said.

The site is customized, recognizing the user's affiliation as officer, enlisted, civilian, Reserve or Guard. There are also links to the most commonly used applications that allow Airmen to navigate the site with greater ease, which enhances the user experience.

"The site provides our total force customers a single entry point into Air Force personnel services," said Debra Warner, the Air Force's Personnel Service Delivery Transformation chief. "The

basic training.

Those who participate in the development and training flight are taught Air Force history, customs and courtesies, core values, and rank structure. They also engage in physical training.

"We try to make the transition from civilian life to military life a little less drastic," said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Mullin, an instructor with the flight at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Mullin said he expects his students to have an advantage in the early stages of their Air Force careers.

"I wish this program existed when I was a new Airman," he said. "I had no idea how to tell the difference between enlisted and officer. It was all brand-new to me."

Mullin is joined in the development and training flight by four other instructors who come from various units across the 514th Air Mobility Wing. Each of the five instructors offers new Airmen their experience as noncommissioned officers, but their ace in the hole is the flight's program manager, Master Sgt. Joe Gentile, who previously served as an Air Force basic training instructor.

Gentile works closely with recruiters and the flight's instructors to maintain the effectiveness of the program. He said that in the past, too many Reserve Airmen were being sent home from basic training due to academic failure, disciplinary issues or medical problems. To counter this trend, Air Force Reserve Command started development and training flights at six test locations and saw immediate results.

The 514th AMW started its flight in April, and Gentile said feedback has been positive from both trainees and established members of the wing.

Besides the formal training the trainees receive, Mullin said the opportunity to network with NCOs and fellow new Airmen is invaluable.

"The only person I had ever met from the Air Force prior to leaving for basic training was my recruiter," he said. "It also would have been nice to meet other people who were reporting to boot camp with me." (*Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White, 514th AMW public affairs*)

315th AW Opens New Readiness Office

The 315th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., has opened a new combat readiness office to increase mission capability and effectiveness.

"The combat readiness office was created to plan, prepare, execute and assess the wing's personnel readiness program," said Lt. Col. Donna McNabb-Riley, 315th AW combat readiness officer.

With the restructuring of the Air Force Reserve's three numbered air forces, senior leaders realized

they needed to create readiness offices in each wing to effectively make sure members are ready to deploy.

"This is a new concept on how we do things," McNabb-Riley said.

Every four years, wings undergo major readiness and compliance inspections.

"Our main job is to plan and implement readiness training events, but we also help and assist with the compliance side," McNabb-Riley said. "We create exercises and events to get members ready to deploy, pinpointing weaknesses that may need to be addressed."

One ongoing task for the combat readiness office is to augment the 22nd Air Force as it conducts other wing inspections and evaluations.

"We help the other units by providing exercise evaluation teams for their inspections," McNabb-Riley said. "We also gain valuable information to help plan and prepare our own people."

Subject matter experts are needed during these exercises to make sure Reservists are trained correctly.

"We have a pool of experts from the 315th, so when the request comes from higher headquarters, NAF or other wings, we are ready to help," McNabb-Riley said. (*Tech. Sgt. Scott Mathews, 315th AW public affairs*)

C-130 Receives New Life at Pope Field

A new aircraft recently arrived at Pope Field, N.C., but it didn't land on either runway 5 or 23. Rather, it arrived secured to the back of a tractor-trailer, minus a few noticeable parts such as its tail, engines and wings, but still ready to go to work.

Although its flying days are over, the fuselage of the C-130 will serve as a trainer for the aeromedical evacuation students at Pope.

The modified C-130 came from Dobbins Air

Reserve Base Ga., with the tail and wings removed. However, virtually everything inside the aircraft remains untouched and in working order, said Tech. Sgt. Gary Taiclet, aeromedical evacuation examiner, Det. 1, 440th Operations Group, Aeromedical Evacuation Formal Training Unit, Pope Field.

The aircraft will be used by the aeromedical evacuation school that was created about a year ago at Pope. The school, which currently lasts 28 days but will soon be condensed to 24 days, trains Airmen on all facets of aeromedical evacuation.

Almost all aeromedical evacuation Airmen in the Reserve, National Guard and active-duty Air Force attend the school at Pope. The school already has one modified C-130 that it uses for training, but with the high number of classes going on, students often have to wait for time to train in the aircraft, Taiclet said, adding the days for both students and instructors often stretches well beyond 12 hours.

"We often have to rotate them through the aircraft," he said. "When one group is training, another is doing its pre-flight briefings, and we have to keep moving them back and forth. It can be inefficient at times. With this new aircraft we'll be able to have more accommodating schedules, which will make days shorter for both students and instructors." (*Master Sgt. Steve Staedler, 440th Airlift Wing public affairs*)

Air Force Looking to Bring Reserve Component Loadmasters Back on Active Duty

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard loadmasters may be eligible to apply for a limited period recall to extended active duty, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

The loadmaster career field is chronically undermanned, said Senior Master Sgt. Marvin Daugherty, AFPC Accessions Branch superintendent. Initiatives are under way to increase loadmaster manning levels from 82 percent to 95 percent by fiscal year 2014, he said.

"While those initiatives are designed to address long-term loadmaster manning, this recall will help us address immediate combatant commander needs," he said. "We expect to bring a total of 110 ARC loadmasters on extended active duty during FY12 and FY13. They'll serve in active-duty flying billets until manning initiatives mature."

Eligible applicants must be master sergeants or below, be current and qualified on their major weapon system, have less than 16 years of total active federal military service by the end of their extended active-duty period and have a current qualifying flying Class III physical, Daugherty said.

Tours will be one or two years, during which time members will be eligible for deployment. While on extended active duty, members will remain affiliated with their AFR or ANG unit and will return to that unit when their active-duty assignment ends.

AFR members must have Air Force Reserve Command operations director approval before coming on active duty, Daugherty said. In addition, ANG members may not be ordered to active duty without their governor's consent and a written endorsement from their adjutant general or commanding general.

AFR and ANG loadmasters may apply for the program through Oct. 31, 2013. The specific application requirements are provided on the Air Force Personnel Services website.

Interested AFR and ANG loadmasters should contact their local military personnel section for guidance on preparing and submitting the application package. ★

Historic Combat Talon I leaves Duke for final home in New Mexico

By Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.

After more than 23,500 hours of flight time and approximately 47 years in service, the MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft known as the "Godfather" left Duke Field, Fla., June 22 for its last mission.

The aircraft with tail number 64-0523 took off for its final resting place — a special operations airpark at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

"It's always sad to see these significant aircraft retire," said Col. Anthony Comtois, 919th Special Operations Wing commander. "There's so much history behind these old birds, not just for our wing, but for both special ops and the Air Force. They've been a part of the Air Force's involvement in every major conflict for the last 40 years."

The Godfather is one of four Combat Talons retiring from Duke this year as the 919th begins its transition toward the new aviation foreign internal defense mission.

"Change is always difficult, but it's a good thing," Comtois said. "Our wing is continuing to transform and grow to support the special ops mission."

More than 40 Airmen and retirees with connections to 0523 lined the flight line area to see the Godfather off. The aircraft's nickname came about just after it arrived at Duke Field in 2000. Duke was the last of four bases 0523 was stationed at through the years.

"There were four of us who were maintaining it when it first arrived. We all came from New England and had Italian heritage. ... that's how the name came about," said Rick Andreozzi, the crew chief of 0523 for 9 1/2 years who gave the Talon its nickname.

Of the many combat sorties the Godfather took part in, one will always be remembered and is part of special operations history.

On Aug. 21, 1970, the aircraft flew lead on the Air Force assault force that brought Army special forces Soldiers to Son Tay in



TECH. SGT. SAMUEL KING JR.

The MC-130E Combat Talon I known as the "Godfather" leaves Duke Field, Fla., for the last time headed to its final resting place: a special operations airpark at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico.

North Vietnam to raid a prisoner-of-war camp and rescue any detainees. Prior to the raid, the Soldiers involved trained for the mission at Duke Field.

We weren't making war but rather leading a humanitarian mission deep into the heart of the enemy," said William Guenon Jr., the retired Air Force pilot who flew 0523 on the Son Tay raid mission 42 years ago.

Although no POWs were recovered in the raid, the mission forced North Vietnam to gather POWs in fewer locations to prevent similar raids, making POW communication and organization easier. POW morale was said to have soared after word of the raid reached other camps. Later, one POW recalled that "the Son Tay rescue attempt dispelled all doubt. We were not forgotten; our country cared." ★

(King is assigned to the 919th SOW public affairs office at Duke Field.)

It's Your Money

By Ralph Lunt

Be not afraid

I recently had an appointment to meet with a woman who had no investment experience and no employer-sponsored retirement plan, like the Thrift Savings Plan. She had no idea how to invest for retirement. She didn't want to get taken and was very reluctant to go to a big investment house, where she would "become a number."

Turns out, she rode by our place on her motorcycle and, in her words, "thought about planning for retirement for hours."

My advice to her was simple. "Don't be afraid. It's okay to ask questions."

During our meeting, she very capably voiced her concerns and asked me a slew of questions from carefully prepared notes. She had spent hours on the Internet researching retirement accounts and investments, which left her confused and very much in need of answers.

I encourage everyone to do research on the web. And don't just research investments. If you meet with a financial professional, do some research on him or her. I'd suggest you look for licensing, any disciplinary actions, professional designations and the numbers of years the person has been in business.

Then, when you meet with an adviser, ask the questions you didn't find answers for in your research, such as how the person gets paid, what to expect if you do business together, and what financial products the person can and can't offer. Ask what the adviser invests in and why.

Please note that I haven't mentioned anything about asking where the market is going. Many professions like to talk about this, but I've yet to hear of one who knows the answer.

Now, what made my appointment with this woman such a rewarding experience for me was that look I got. You know, the one people get when they finally understand something because of the way you explained it. It rocks!

If you haven't started planning for retirement, start now. Ask questions, research via the Internet, talk to friends and family, and, if it suits you, meet with an adviser. No doubt, retirement planning and investments can be confusing and complicated. With that said, set your goals, ask good questions and be not afraid! ★

(Editor's note: This feature is designed to provide financial advice and information of a general nature. Individuals should conduct their own research and consult a financial adviser before making any financial decisions. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Lunt is a certified financial planner and vice president of a financial planning and consulting firm. He is also a colonel in the Air Force Reserve, serving as the reserve forces director of the Great Lakes Region of the Civil Air Patrol adviser's program.)



ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY

Law authorizes mobilizing Reservists to respond to natural disasters

New authority in this year's Defense Department authorization act allows reservists in Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components to be called to duty in response to natural disasters or emergencies in the homeland. The law also permits mobilizations for extended periods to support theater security missions around the world.

Except for a crisis involving a weapon of mass destruction, members of the reserve components historically have been prohibited from providing a homeland disaster response.

State governors can call up the National Guard if a natural disaster is too large for civil authorities to handle. If more forces are needed — as when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005 — active-duty service members became the federal default force.

"Our reservists have been asked and often volunteer to assist after disasters hit the homeland," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC commander. "Mobilizing needed reservists will help sustain their support for longer periods and make operations more efficient. We mobilize reservists to handle contingencies overseas, so it makes sense that we do that to take care of our own country."

Air Force Reservists possess special skill sets to deal with disasters. For example, Hurricane Hunters from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., fly WC-130 reconnaissance missions into tropical storms and hurricanes before they strike land. After areas are swamped by storms, specially equipped C-130s from Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, can spray for harmful insects that thrive in stagnant waters. C-130 airborne firefighters from Peterson AFB, Colo., in conjunction with three Guard C-130 units, battle wildfires when commercial resources are overwhelmed.

In addition to these units, the Air Force Reserve has other people and aircraft to shuttle response personnel, supplies and equipment into disaster areas as well as take victims out of harm's way.

"With this new authority, we will be able to make greater contributions to our nation in times of need," Stenner said.

The inability to help communities has frustrated the chiefs of the reserve components, who see no sense in bypassing local reservists simply because they operate under federal "Title 10" authority and not state "Title 32" authority.

"In a lot of cases, there were reserve-component

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who were close at hand with the capabilities needed, but they didn't have the authority to act," said Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of Army Reserve. "Finally, we got the law changed. This new legislation says that now we can use Title 10 reserves."

For these forces to be used, the law specifies that the president must declare an emergency or disaster, and a state governor must request the assistance.

Under the new law, some aspects of disaster relief will not change. Civil authorities will remain the first responders. Moreover, if military support is needed, National Guard forces will be the first to step in when called by their state governor. However, if a situation also demands a federal response, reserve forces can step in to assist for up to 120 days.

In order for this new authority to work, "We just have to make sure we have the procedures and processes worked out," Stultz said.

Now, before the authority is actually needed, is the time to get that resolved, he said.

"Let's not wait until a hurricane hits to say, 'How do we do it?'" Stultz said.

Another change in the 2012 authorization act allows Title 10 reservists to be called to duty to support unnamed overseas contingencies. The reserve components have a long history of deploying members for medical, engineering and other missions to support theater engagement and security cooperation efforts. Typically, they perform these missions as part of their annual tour and on a rotational basis with reservists from other units.

"With this new authority, now we can send them down for much longer periods of time," Stultz said.

As operations wind down in Afghanistan, Stultz said, he hopes reservists will be more available to support combatant commanders' theater engagement campaigns.

A hospital unit, for example, could potentially spend three months rather than a few weeks supporting a medical mission in Central or South America, Africa, or Asia. In addition, at the end of that three-month period, another reserve unit could rotate in to replace them.

This additional capability, Stultz said, would give combatant commanders far more assets to support their engagement strategies across their areas of responsibility, even at a time of dwindling resources. ★

(Information for this article taken from a story provided by the American Forces Press Service.)

Scanning for signs of survivors from an HH-60 helicopter, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Canfield keeps a close watch as the sun sets on the flooded city of New Orleans on Sept. 4, 2005. A provision of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act permits the secretary of defense to mobilize Air Force Reservists like Canfield if they are needed to respond to natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. (Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

staring into the **EYE** of the storm

Ever wonder what it would be like to fly into the eye of a hurricane? Now you can find out in season one of The Weather Channel's new character-driven documentary series that takes you up close and personal with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" of Air Force Reserve Command's 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The series focuses on the squadron's Citizen Airmen as they track key meteorological data that can only be gathered by flying into the eye of a hurricane. The data collected by the Reservists provides the information that allows the National Hurricane Center to predict storm paths and warn cities. Check your local listings for reruns or watch the episodes on <http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/hurricane-hunters>. With the success of season one, the Weather Channel is working with the 403rd to bring season two to its viewing audience in the summer of 2013. Season two will again showcase the crews that fly the missions but will also bring further attention to those who maintain the wing's WC-130J aircraft as well as take a look at the partnership between the traditional Reservists and the employers who support them.



The
Weather
Channel



FOCUS

Survey allows civil engineers to zero in on targets of opportunity

By Gene Van Deventer

Since the inception of the Air Force Reserve Command, the goal of the civil engineer and the Directorate of Installations and Mission Support or A7 has been to provide Airmen with the absolute best facilities for work and leisure.

The task of providing world-class mission-ready facilities has been continually challenged by budget constraints, force realignments, mission changes and base closures. These challenges require AFRC to establish rigorous processes that ensure the command invests resources in the highest priority facility requirements.

Proactive identification and correction of facility deficiencies have been critical to ensuring continued operational capability in a resource-constrained environment while allowing maximum flexibility to rapidly address urgent and unforeseen requirements. In order to provide the command this required capability, the director of installations and mission support established an AFRC-unique process called Facilities Operational Capabilities and Utilization Survey. The purpose of this survey is to identify those facilities requiring the most urgent care, champion initiatives to acquire military construction funds and prioritize crucial facility repair requirements.

The A7 Planning Branch, led by Ronald Scandlyn, is the process owner for FOCUS.

"This facility initiative is for our nine host and 37 tenant locations," Scandlyn said. "That's quite a lot of territory to cover, believe me, and every organization has a list for facility improvements."

He said FOCUS is a four-step process designed to identify repair and construction priorities. The first step is the facility utilization survey. During this phase, on-site interviews are conducted with functional points of contact at the study location. The survey determines the functional space authorized (as established by Air Force specifications) and how much space is actually being used by each unit.

The second step is the facility condition assessment. During this assessment, the structural, mechanical and aesthetic elements of AFRC facilities are assessed against established checklists to identify and document substandard conditions.

The third step in the FOCUS process is a programming workshop, which takes place several months after the facility utilization and facility condition efforts. According to Toni Thorne, the

command's FOCUS program manager, this stage involves working with the installation staff to complete an in-depth analysis of findings that integrate space use and facility condition requirements into a prioritized list of specific and actionable items.

The FOCUS process culminates in the production of a final report as the last process step. The final report documents all findings and analysis in great detail and provides supporting documents that allow the subject unit to properly program, and seek funding for, all prioritized requirements.

A FOCUS team typically comprises from 10 to 25 contractors (engineers, technicians and geospatial specialists) who, under the leadership of A7 staff, meet with site location civil engineers and their senior leadership. FOCUS team members review current work orders, interview facility managers and conduct facility inspections to document deficiencies on interior and exterior elements such as finishes, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, roofing, and electrical/safety concerns.

The team makes on-the-spot recommendations for fixes providing senior leadership with an in-brief prior to the facility utilization survey and an in- and out-brief at the programming workshop to explain the breadth of the evaluation and its findings. A final assessment report is sent to the location documenting planning and programming requirements. The report provides information to support submission of those requirements to higher headquarters for funding approval.

The analytical FOCUS process helps expedite the review and validation of project funding as both the site customer and the headquarters staff have already coordinated on the requirement scope and work prioritization. To date, FOCUS teams have visited 46 AFRC operating locations, with a second round of visits currently under way. The goal is to visit units about once every four years to ensure plans are updated and changes incorporated into the overall AFRC facility investment strategy.

The command's FOCUS process helps to:

- Validate current military construction and operations and maintenance projects;
- Update real property information;
- Provide comprehensive execution plans;
- Simplify and standardize advocacy for facility requirements;
- Facilitate allocation of resources to highest priority



requirements;

- Optimize facility utilization; and
- Provide a firm foundation for building AFRC's asset management program.

Lt. Col. Ted Munchmeyer, the base civil engineer for the 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., speaks to the benefits of FOCUS team visits from a customer perspective.

"FOCUS provided a snapshot of project and space needs that both the base civil engineer and customers did not identify or did not realize due to mission and policy changes," Munchmeyer said. "In a perfect world, the civil engineer and customer would be able to identify all the needs of the base given the constraints of policy, situation and mission. But this is not a perfect world, and, frankly, due to the voluminous changes of the recent past and the complexity of our systems, it is very difficult to keep up on what is a 'priority.' FOCUS provided us with that ability.

"The most recent FOCUS report provided an immense windfall of both direction and priority when it comes to project development. It identified many small issues that customers have had to simply 'deal with' such as that HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) unit that always goes out or the sewer line that seems to always plug up after a UTA (unit training assembly). With the help of my BOS (base operating support) contract, the report allowed me to easily go down the list and fix issues without much burden or further investigation being necessary."

While AFRC host bases have a full-time civil engineering staff to manage a multitude of facility maintenance issues, tenant units are not manned at the same level. Consequently, when a FOCUS team arrives at a tenant unit to conduct an in-depth facility survey, its findings are fully documented and systematically substantiated by subject matter experts.

"Our latest FOCUS visit identified 31 facility projects, of which five have been awarded funding totaling more than \$1 million," said Steven Hensley, a facility manager at the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

He cited the explosive ordnance disposal facility project as being an excellent example of how the FOCUS system research helped to gain cooperative emphasis both at AFRC and with the active-duty host at Andrews.

"The newly formed Reserve EOD unit was sharing facility usage with the active-duty host, and it was obvious additional space was required," Hensley said. "The FOCUS study validated the need for additional space, and funding was awarded to make additions to accommodate the extra workspace for personnel and equipment."

The FOCUS program has helped to identify and prioritize needed facility repair at both host and tenant AFRC locations. Its professional analyses and consequent command emphasis go a long way in pinpointing where precious monies ought to be spent first when it comes to improving Airmen's ability to complete their mission and quality of life environments. ★

(A frequent contributor to Citizen Airman magazine, Van Deventer is assigned to the Expeditionary Combat Support Division of the Installations and Mission Support Directorate at HQ AFRC.)

ONE OF THE BEST

Luke Reservist is one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

by Capt. Elizabeth Magnusson

They say lightning only strikes once, but for one unit at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., the saying doesn't hold true. For the second time in three years, Luke has an Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year.

Master Sgt. Sandra Plentzas, 944th Fighter Wing chapel superintendent, was selected as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen for 2012.

"It is with the utmost respect and pleasure that I was able to announce our very own 944th Fighter Wing warrior as one of the United States Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year recipients," said Col. Jose Monteagudo, wing commander. "She has shined bright this past year with multiple Air Force-level awards."

The Golden, Colo., native was also selected in 2011 as the John L. Levitow Award recipient and distinguished graduate at the Senior NCO Academy, USAFCENT Outstanding Chaplain Corps Senior NCO of the Rotation and even earned the Senior NCO Airman Excellence in Fitness award during her deployment to Southwest Asia. All the while, Plentzas volunteered with several different organizations on Luke, including working with spouses of deployed members and the Air Force Sergeants Association.

"Sergeant Plentzas is a true representation of the professionalism of our military and the caliber of our service members," Monteagudo said. "Her accomplishments and dedication speak louder than words. It's a distinct honor to have her in our wing. She is an inspiration to us all."

Over the past year, Plentzas not only completed SNCOA, but she also completed Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education, the Chaplain Assistant Senior Leadership Course and the Air Force Reserve Senior NCO Leadership Development Course. To top it all off, she also completed her third associate degree in social services.

"Some of the best career advice I ever received was to do everything I have control over to make myself eligible and competitive," Plentzas said. "You need to be sure you are taking care of your PME and education at the earliest opportunity. Take care of any upgrade or qualification training in a timely manner, and strive to do your best on the job."

Plentzas' advice to others is to know what to do to make it to the next stage of their career and be proactive in pursuing it.

"Take charge of your own career and don't wait for some-

Master Sgt. Sandra Plentzas reads the story of Noah's ark to Reece, Lillian and Miles Rash. Plentzas, the 944th Fighter Wing chapel superintendent, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., was recently named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2012.



STAFF SGT. LOUIS VEGA JR.

one else to work things on your behalf," she said. "But above all, be sure that you do everything with excellence and for the right motive.

"If you are genuinely concerned about your fellow Airmen and the mission, recognition will follow."

Plentzas' concern for her fellow Airmen was never more evident than during her recent deployment. As the NCO in charge of the largest chaplain team in the area of responsibility, spanning four sites in three countries and supporting more than 18,100 deployed members, Plentzas brought her expert leadership to a struggling team. Her deployed wing chaplain said she was "the key to the air expeditionary wing team."

Plentzas forward-deployed three times during her seven-month deployment and was handpicked to fill a critical void in Saudi Arabia where she helped military members dealing with a fellow Soldier's suicide.

Plentzas also benchmarked a comprehensive Airman fitness program and led 26 members in a resiliency outreach to 1,100 joint forces.

"Putting on the resiliency week for newly arrived Airmen

was the highlight of my deployment," Plentzas said. "It's the thing I'm probably most proud of."

Because of Plentzas' selfless dedication to Airmen and the Air Force, it was no surprise to anyone that she was chosen as an one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Sergeant Plentzas is the consummate military professional," said Capt. Kevin Rash, 944th FW chaplain and Plentzas' supervisor. "Those of us who work with her daily are not surprised that she won."

When asked how she felt about being selected, she was humbled and shocked.

"I never dreamed my name would be associated with such a prestigious award," Plentzas said. "But it is really not about me or my name.

"I know everything that went into the award package was the culmination of mentoring, guidance and opportunities I received as a result of the hard work of others. I was entrusted with situations to handle and people to lead that allowed what I've learned from others to shine." ★

(Magnusson is chief of public affairs for the 944th FW at Luke AFB.)



Bringing 'Em Back Home

IMA leading the research effort to make sure America's wounded warriors make it home in the best condition possible

By Bo Joyner

Col. Elizabeth Bridges has spent a lot of time considering how to best bring America's wounded warriors home, including the unique care provided in the back of cargo aircraft while injured service members are transported from field hospitals overseas to medical treatment facilities in the United States. Making sure America's wounded warriors make it home in the best condition possible is her passion.

"We have to think about all the stressors that affect patients during flight and look for solutions to monitor for changes," she said.

Bridges, an associate professor in the University of Washington's School of Nursing in Seattle and a clinical nurse researcher at the UW Medical Center, has been one of the nation's top scientists in the field of critically injured patient transport for

a number of years. Her research has led her in a number of different directions, including how to best deal with the threat of hypothermia in the field and providing care during the eight- to 12-hour aeromedical evacuation flights from the combat zone to Germany and back to the United States.

"Severely injured trauma patients are at risk of becoming hypothermic," she said. "Our team conducted research that led to the hypothermia kits currently in use in Afghanistan. The kits consist of a lightweight space blanket and warming device that heat ups when opened to the air. The kits have been very effective in reducing the risk of hypothermia."

In fact, a wounded warrior is far less likely to develop hypothermia than someone injured in the United States who must be transported to a treatment facility.

"Currently, about 3 percent of our wounded service members are coming in with a low temperature compared to anywhere between 10 percent and 40 percent here in the United States," she said. "When you consider that our patients are more severely injured, I think this is an extraordinary accomplishment."

Bridges, who currently serves as the mobilization assistant to the director of Air Force Nursing Services, led the development of the Battlefield and Disaster Pocket Guide. The guide, which was funded by the TriService Nursing Research Program, is a reference for deploying care providers that fits neatly into a battle dress uniform pocket.

"So far, we've given out around 22,000 copies of the guide to nurses and medics from all three services," she said. "We want to make sure that when they deploy, they know exactly what they need to do as soon as their boots hit the ground. The guide is a good place to go to find answers to a lot of the questions they might have about care of battlefield injuries."

Currently, Bridges' research is focused on how to know as



Col. Elizabeth Bridges in her office at the University of Washington's School of Nursing in Seattle. As a Reservist, Bridges is the mobilization assistant to the director of Air Force Nursing Services.

quickly as possible when a patient might be making a turn for the worse.

"Right now, we're doing a lot of research on noninvasive monitors — putting a very small noninvasive probe on a person's hand that can give us a better idea of what is going on inside that person's body," she said. "The idea is to know as soon as possible if a patient might be heading for trouble so we can be more proactive in treatment."

Bridges' scientific skills were put to the test when she was selected to serve as the first director of the Joint Combat Casualty Research Team in Afghanistan in 2009.

"That was the perfect job for a critical care nurse and researcher," she said. "I felt like that deployment was 25 years in the making. I was able to look at research not only at one hospital but across the entire continuum of care — how can we provide the best, evidence-based care for our most severely injured warriors from the battlefield all the way back to the United States."

Over the years, Bridges has been able to share what she has learned through her research with health care providers all around the world. She has spent time in Iraq, Pakistan, Estonia and a number of countries in eastern Europe and Africa to train nurses to care for trauma victims.

Since being selected to serve as the MA to the director of Air Force Nursing Services about a year and a half ago, Bridges has been making frequent trips across the country to the Pentagon. She said this job has allowed her to see beyond her role as a researcher.

"It's been a great opportunity because now I can help put ideas into policy," she said. "Research is still my passion, but it's exciting to be a part of the process now where the research gets put into practice." ★



Bridges (left) and Lt. Col. Karen Evers conduct research in an altitude chamber. Bridges is one of the nation's top researchers in the field of critically injured patient transport.

THE WAR ON DRUGS

AFRC 'taking a whole new approach to drug demand reduction'

By Bo Joyner

Dr. Don Jenrette has passed out a lot of promotional items in his day. As the Air Force Reserve Command Drug Demand Reduction Program manager for the past 14 years, he's handed out more magnetic calendars, notebooks, pens and stress balls than he could possibly count. If you've been around the Air Force Reserve for a while, you've probably got something with the Drug Demand Reduction Program's familiar "True Blue" logo on it.

But, as Jenrette knows, it takes more than lanyards and key chains to win the war on drugs.

"My job is to drive down the number of positive drug testing results by our Reservists," Jenrette said. "By doing this we can, in turn, reduce the number of Airmen needed to replace those administratively separated from the Air Force Reserve for positive drug test results."

For years, the number of positive test results has been rising across the board — for the active-duty Air Force, the Reserve and the National Guard. And as the Air Force begins testing for a number of prescription drugs, the rates are expected to rise even more.

"It's definitely a challenge, but our goal is to reverse this trend of rising positive test results," Jenrette said.

To help him reach this goal, Jenrette decided to look for a little outside help.

"We went straight to the world-class experts," he said. "For the past three years, we've been partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to change the way we approach drug demand reduction in the Air Force Reserve. The SAMHSA team is an integral part of the federal government's Department of Health and Human Services. They know what has worked and what has not worked regarding the world of substance abuse prevention education.

"For years, the people who ran the drug demand reduction programs at our AFRC bases viewed themselves as testing administrators only," Jenrette said. "Now, with the help and expertise of SAMHSA, we're focusing on teaching and equip-



Dr. Don Jenrette speaks to Drug Demand Reduction Program managers and technicians at the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training Course. Air Force Reserve Command is teaching its DDRP professionals to be preventionists as well as testing administrators.

ping our Drug Demand Reduction Program managers and technicians to be preventionists as well.

"AFRC and SAMHSA have collectively tailored a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training Course to provide a knowledge base of the history of substance abuse in America, the role of the media, prevention strategies and methods of evaluation. When our Drug Demand Reduction Program professionals complete the week-long course, they leave with an individually tailored and workable action-oriented substance abuse prevention education strategy. That base-level strategy is designed to decrease positive drug test numbers. And, according to the SAMHSA experts, that won't happen overnight but will take a team effort over a number of years."

Since June 2009, more than half of the assigned DDRP professionals have completed the training course.

"The good news is that the course is now AFRC-centric," Jenrette said. "Recently, we had two of the SAMHSA trainers learn and experience the AFRC culture by visiting one of our standalone AFRC bases, and that visit moved our trainers and training curriculum ahead by light years."

Jenrette said eventually AFRC's Prevention Strategy Team will take responsibility for teaching the SAMHSA-developed curriculum. The PST is made up of full-time civilians assigned to AFRC standalone bases responsible for drug testing and prevention education.

"Now that we've stood up a formal training platform with the great help from SAMHSA, we are ensuring its sustainability for years to come," Jenrette said.

"We're taking a whole new approach to drug demand reduction," he said. "Even though workplace drug testing is here to stay, drug prevention education is also a primary prevention tool. No doubt, as we continue to spread the drug prevention word throughout the Air Force Reserve, we'll start to see some of the results we're looking for." ★

From the TRICARE Advisor

Tricare Dental Program announces changes

By Lt. Col. Alexander Alex

The Department of Defense has contracted with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. to provide services under the Tricare Dental Program, which is a voluntary, premium-based dental insurance plan. MetLife will provide services for enrollment, claims processing and customer support.

While the change occurred in May, it's a good time to highlight the dental program benefits as there have been a few changes.

You are eligible for the Tricare Dental Program if you are a family member of a Reservist or a Reserve member on active duty such as a spouse or eligible dependent child who does not qualify for Tricare Young Adult.

Reserve members (Individual Ready Reserve or Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve) who are on active-duty orders for more than 30 consecutive days or covered by the Transitional Assistance Management Program after serving on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation are covered by the Tricare Active Duty Dental Program, which is different than the MetLife program.

The new contract provides some enhancements to your benefits. Changes include the following:

- Coverage of tooth-colored/white fillings on back teeth.
- An increased annual maximum benefit from \$1,200 to \$1,300 per enrollee.
- An increase in the orthodontic lifetime maximum from \$1,500 to \$1,750 per enrollee.
- \$1,200 per year for services related to dental treatment due to an accident.
- No cost-shares for scaling and root planing (deep cleaning) for diabetics.
- The benefit year under MetLife will run from May 1 to April 30 (annual maximums).

Premium rates under the new MetLife contract are lower for each enrollee category. If your premiums are automatically deducted from your military payroll account, you will see the new, lower deduction on your April leave-and-earnings statement. The following tables list your TDP monthly premium rates for dental coverage effective May 1 to Jan. 31, 2013. Beginning Feb. 1, 2013, the premium year will return to the February 1-January 31 cycle. Premium rates will reset annually every Feb. 1.

Active Duty Family Members	* Single: \$10.30/month * Family: \$30.89/month
Selected Reserve, IRR (Mobilization Only) and Family Members	* Sponsor only: \$10.30/month * Single: \$25.74/month * Family: \$77.22/month * Sponsor and family: \$87.52
IRR (Non Mobilization) and Family Members	* Sponsor only: \$25.74/month * Single: \$25.74/month * Family: \$77.22/month * Sponsor and family: \$102.96



Similar to Tricare Reserve Select, the Tricare Dental Program offers worldwide coverage with two service areas.

The continental United States service area includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The outside continental United States service area includes Canada, all other countries, island masses and territorial waters, as well as civilian ships or vessels outside the territorial waters of the continental United States service area, regardless of the dentist office address.

Dental Coverage

The Tricare Dental Program offers comprehensive dental coverage, which includes:

- Diagnostic and preventive services (exams, cleanings, fluorides, sealants and X-rays).
- Basic restorative services (fillings, including tooth-colored [white] fillings on back teeth).
- Endodontics (root canals).
- Periodontics (gum surgery).
- Oral surgery (tooth extractions).
- Prosthodontics (crowns, dentures).
- Orthodontics (braces).
- Scaling and root planning (deep cleaning) for diabetics at no cost.

If you have the TDP, it's recommended that you and/or your family members register online at <https://employeeedental.metlife.com/dental/public/EmpEntry.do> to create your own "Dental Benefits" account with secure features that allow you to:

- View plan coverage details.
- Check a claim.
- View claims history.
- View explanation of benefits.
- Access tools and resources.
- Access the "Find a Dentist" feature.
- File a grievance.

Additionally, once signed in, you can view frequently asked questions and oral health information, and download commonly used forms/documents, the Tricare Dental Program Benefit Booklet and other materials. A DOD self-service log-on is required.

This log-on can be easily created if you possess a Common Access Card and does not require access to a government computer or CAC card reader. This action can be accomplished from any computer. ★

(Anyone who has a question regarding a benefit as it relates to a Reserve member or family beneficiary member may email the Tricare advisor at alexander.alex@us.af.mil.)



MAJ. ALAN MIREY

Lt. Col. (Dr.) William Dunlap, 944th Medical Squadron dentist, performs a tooth extraction at a temporary clinic set up in a school in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Members of the the squadron partnered with other Reservists and Air National Guard members from nine different units to provide medical, dental, optometry and pharmacy care to more than 10,000 patients during their 15-day humanitarian mission in the Dominican Republic.

Smiles

They make the long days worth it during medical humanitarian mission

By Maj. Jessica Martin and Capt. Elizabeth Magnusson

After six months of preparation, two days of travel and a whirlwind two weeks of providing non-stop medical, dental and optical care, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members from 10 different units returned to their home stations a little tired but filled with pride and satisfaction knowing they provided care to more than 10,000 patients in 15 days.

Members of the 944th Medical Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., in partnership with the 926th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.; 927th ASTS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; 476th Aerospace Medicine Flight, Moody AFB, Ga.; 163rd Medical Group, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; 419th MDS, Hill AFB, Utah; 910th MDS, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio; 514th ASTS, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.; and Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Ga., participated in this year's Medical Humanitarian Tour to the Dominican Republic.

"There was a certain synergy between all of the members that made this operation a success," said Lt. Col. Alfred Rossum, 944th MDS doctor and commander of the Medical Humanitarian Tour. "The integration of all of the units and squadrons was seamless."

The call for help came from U.S. Southern Command to AFRC as part of a program set up to identify and help regions in need. AFRC fulfills two to three of these types of missions a year, fostering goodwill and ensuring the proficiency and skill set of its members.

"When you have to deploy more than 40 people in many different AFSCs (Air Force specialty codes), you never know how it will turn out," said Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Simmons, 944th MDS first sergeant. "I was very pleased with the combined effort of all of the Airmen. They operated seamlessly as if they had worked together for years. It was truly a combined effort of professionals that met the challenge head-on."

The 47-person U.S. team received the opportunity to conduct a joint mission with the Dominican Republic's air force. The

medics worked up to 15 hours a day alongside members of the host service who provided security, transportation, overnight supply security, translators and additional medical providers to help with the overwhelming patient load.

"The Dominican Republic military personnel were so enthusiastic about having us that they went out of their way to make us feel comfortable," Simmons said. "They opened our visit with a military ceremony and ended the two-week mission with a very nice closing ceremony complete with a military band and a friendly game of softball."

The group was assigned to address the needs of patients at four separate schools throughout Puerto Plata. At each location the team set up medical, dental, optometry and pharmacy areas.

Medical services were broken down into four components: a nurse managed patient triage, medical technicians took vital signs, and doctors and nurses provided general medical and pediatric care.

"Once patients were diagnosed, they were sent to the pharmacy to receive their prescriptions," Rossum said.

The team saw more than 3,140 adult patients and about 1,500 pediatric patients, or about 330 patients a day.

Patients who required additional or more in-depth services were referred to the local partnering health providers who were present at all four treatment sites. These providers coordinated medical services that were beyond the Air Force team's capabilities.

During the intake and triage of the patients, the nursing staff also took the opportunity to provide public health and hygiene counseling.

"Our dental team had three Air Force Reserve officers and one Air National Guard officer with three Air Force Reserve dental technicians," Rossum said. "We also had at least one local dentist onsite. They really provided a great help with the difficult extractions and translations."

Although the team only had a handful of members who were fluent in Spanish, the other team members rapidly learned common Spanish phrases that significantly helped with patient communication.

"They have nowhere to go for needs like dental and optometry care," said Maj. Zachary Timko of the 926th AMS, who served as senior administrator for the trip. "The mission gives you a completely different perspective on what we have in the United States, what we take for granted."

Local citizens stood in line for hours on end to be seen. The dental team saw 656 people during its 15-day stay and conducted more than 825 tooth extractions. One in four dental patients was under the age of 12.

"People waited from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to see a dentist," Timko said. "Who in our country would do that? It's a luxury to them, not a need like it is for us in the United States."

The optometry team consisted of three optometrists and one ophthalmic technician.

"Our optometry team was extremely busy and had to request a local optometrist join them to keep up with the demand," Rossum said. "With the overwhelming requests for optometry services, an optometry triage was set up and initiated."

"We had an optometry and medical technician set up to con-

duct the basic vision testing. This really allowed the technicians to triage patients requiring optometrist care and those only requiring basic exams."

The team saw more than 3,235 optometry patients and handed out more than 2,380 pairs of glasses. The glasses were donated by the Lions Club's Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation of MD21.

"The final piece to our team was the pharmacy section," Rossum said. "This team was staffed with a pharmacist, a pharmacy tech, a medical tech, an administrative tech and three interpreter volunteers."

Rossum said Maj. Brian Sydnor of the 56th MDG did a significant amount of work prior to the trip. He provided a pharmacy diagram and prescription templates with pre-packing and labeling that helped facilitate the process of dispensing medications. The pharmacy team dispensed more than 9,800 prescriptions during the two-week period.

"Our members received valuable hands-on training for the care they provided," Simmons said. "But the experience of taking care of people who are less fortunate will be an unforgettable mission in all of our careers."

One member in particular who had previously been on a Dominican Republic mission plans to seek out future opportunities.

"Participating in a humanitarian mission is a very humbling and rewarding experience," said Staff Sgt. Laura Valenzuela, 926th AMDS medical administrative specialist. "It's hard work, and you need to adjust to the surroundings and expect long days. But when you see a smile on your patient's face, you just want to keep going."

"The people of the Dominican Republic touched the hearts and minds of all of us," Rossum said. "It was an experience we will not forget." ★

(Martin is chief of public affairs for the 926th Group at Nellis AFB, while Magnusson holds the same position for the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB.)



MAJ. MYLA ABEJUELA

Maj. Steven Clough, 926th Aerospace Medicine Squadron optometrist, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., checks the eyes of a patient.

Getting Involved

Teen Leadership Council gives Reserve youngsters a voice

By Master Sgt. Steve Staedler

When the recreational youth baseball team at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., kicked off its season April 14, Hunter Woodard wasn't on the field. Instead, he was busy in a booth passing out information about Air Force Reserve programs and opportunities available to his peers.

In Ohio, Celestia Starner organized an arts and craft show this spring at Wright-Patterson AFB for Air Force Reserve youth to show off their creative side.

These weren't just isolated outreach efforts limited to Georgia and Ohio. In fact, they were part of a much larger effort involving 18

other teens across the country who designed and executed similar projects as part of the Air Force Reserve's Teen Leadership Council.

Now in its second year, the TLC offers ways for Air Force Reserve teens to share viewpoints on issues related to military life. Council members develop projects to strengthen youth programs, speak on behalf of Reservists' dependents at special events, link families to community resources and raise awareness of military family concerns.

"The reason we started the council is to have arms and voices out in our communities," said Brandi McGonagill, TLC adviser and the 4-H/child and youth specialist for Air Force Reserve Command. "One goal is to have the teen council members raise awareness about programs and opportunities available to Reserve families, on and off base."

In addition to acting as liaisons between the Reserve and their peers, TLC members learn valuable leadership skills on which to build upon as they progress through high school.

"I think my leadership traits have really been strengthened by heading up things such as my information booth at the baseball game, and learning public speaking and to be more social in a group setting," Woodard said. "I've always been inspired to help military youth, and since I've grown up in the military, the council is a great way to do that."

"I believe the TLC is teaching him time management," said his father, Lt. Col. Billy Woodard Jr., chief of the War and Mobilization Plans Branch at Headquarters AFRC. "Hunter is really active in his church, he's in ROTC in high school and is part of the swimming team. He has to manage all these activities, and I think the TLC is teaching him the skills to accomplish that."

To join the TLC, teens must first attend one of the Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits, which are conducted during the summer. Slots are highly sought after,



Gianna Duncan is one of 20 Air Force Reserve Teen Leadership Council members who develop projects to strengthen youth programs and raise awareness of military family concerns.

as last year more than 800 teens applied for 300 openings. Teens between the ages of 15 and 18 who have attended a leadership summit are eligible to apply for the TLC. Selection is based on citizenship, grades, a written essay, two letters of recommendation and a telephone interview.

McGonagill said last year about 60 teens applied for the 20 TLC slots.

This year's TLC members helped plan this summer's leadership camps (June 17-22 in Dahlonaga, Ga., and Aug. 7-12 in Estes Park, Colo.). In addition, they will lead ceremonies, facilitate workshops and oversee com-

munity service projects. The teens will also lead youth-related activities at Yellow Ribbon events across the country. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program aims to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities by connecting them with resources before, during and after a deployment.

"Being on the council has given me the opportunity to travel and meet other teens from around the country, at events like the Yellow Ribbon program, who are like me and have a parent in the Reserve," said Starner, whose father, Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Starner, is assigned to the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron at Wright-Patterson AFB. "For other teens who are interested in the council, definitely apply to attend a leadership camp or get active in the military lifestyle. It's pretty awesome."

Starner has started a youth leadership council at Wright-Patterson. Members of her group have written letters to Airmen serving overseas and been involved in community activities.

This kind of outreach is what TLC members do throughout the year, McGonagill said, adding that from October to December 2011, events, speeches and presentations by the TLC reached more than 2,500 teens nationwide.

"I hope through the TLC that Reserve kids across the country start to feel more a part of the Air Force community," McGonagill said. "A lot of Reserve kids live far away from a base or maybe are the only military kid in school. I think the TLC is a great way to help bridge that gap and make kids more welcomed and involved in the Air Force Reserve."

Information on the AFRC Teen Leadership Council is available online at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies/youthprograms/teenleader.asp>. ★

(Staedler is assigned to the 440th AW public affairs office at Pope Field, N.C. He wrote this article while on a temporary duty assignment supporting Citizen Airman.)

People check out H2H.jobs at a recent hiring fair. In the last year, H2H has connected more than 84,000 veterans, reserve component members and military spouses with nearly 5,000 different employers.



Hero 2 Hired

It's not just another job site

By Senior Airman Danielle Purnell

Two of the greatest challenges the nation is facing right now are unemployment and underemployment, and these related problems are especially severe for those in the National Guard and Reserve. A 2011 survey of reserve component members showed a 23 percent unemployment rate among junior enlisted troops in the pay grades E-1 through E-4.

In response to these issues, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs launched "Hero2Hired," better known as H2H, in December.

The Department of Defense places a strong emphasis on ensuring reserve component service members have a civilian job that provides stability while allowing them the time and resources to contribute to the nation's defense.

"Service members and their families should not have to sacrifice economic security because they stepped forward to serve our country, and right now America's military members are returning to a challenging work environment," said retired Army Maj. Gen. Ronald Young, director of Family and Employer Programs and Policy, and executive director of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "H2H.jobs (the program's website) aims to simplify the job search while reducing the number of unemployed reserve component service members."

According to H2H.jobs, the website isn't just another job site for military members. Instead, it's a Yellow Ribbon-funded, multi-faceted program targeted to support reserve component service members through an electronic job and career web platform, mobile applications and Facebook integration, and virtual and physical career fairs.

"Reservists and guardsmen go online to H2H.jobs from a computer or from a mobile phone and find listings of military-friendly employers looking to hire reserve component members," said Army Sgt. Maj. Wayne Bowser, senior enlisted advis-

er for Family and Employer Programs and Policy. "They even have the opportunity to speak directly with employers."

In addition to the interactive website with job listings, career exploration tools and networking opportunities, H2H's resources also include a military skills translator, job-seeker profile builders, social networking and mobile offices.

"The military skills translator allows applicants to enter their military occupational code to get a list of career paths that fit their military training and experience," said Jim Strickland, Air Force Reserve Command ESGR-reserve component liaison.

Likewise, the career assessment offers a skills and interest survey to help determine what career types best fit an applicant's background.

"We view civilian employment as an important piece of a reserve component service member's readiness," Young said. "We see the high unemployment rate as a clear threat to the readiness of our force."

In the last year, ESGR and H2H have assisted the National Chamber of Commerce in its hiring fairs across the country. At more than 100 events in 45 states and the District of Columbia, more than 84,000 veterans, reserve component members and military spouses have been connected with nearly 5,000 different employers. As a result, more than 8,400 people have gained employment.

H2H is sponsoring 40 "Hiring Our Heroes" job fairs this year in locations with high reserve component unemployment. Airmen can find information about these job fairs by logging onto H2H.jobs. ★

(Purnell was formerly a traditional Reservist assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing public affairs office at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. She wrote this article while on a temporary duty assignment supporting Citizen Airman.)

INTRODUCING AFRLIVE

In late 2011 the Air Force Reserve launched AFRLive as a mobile video portal for the latest Air Force Reserve news, events and information delivered in real-time.

*AFRLive can currently be accessed either by scanning Quick Response (QR) codes, which are on all Air Force Reserve advertising and marketing materials, clicking the hyperlink on the homepage of AFReserve.com or utilizing the downloadable app. The AFRLive app can be downloaded to your mobile device from the AFRLive homepage, Blackberry App World, Google Play or by dialing **AFRLIVE (**2375483) from your mobile phone.*

Video hosts report on Air Force Reserve news stories, career opportunities, missions, benefits, events and human-interest stories. "Did You Know?" videos provide information on Air Force Reserve job specialties, missions and benefits. Human-interest profiles of Citizen Airmen highlight their Reserve and civilian jobs as well as outside interests, including racing motorcycles, competing on national athletic teams, and directing the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

Information regarding Air Force Reserve-sponsored events, such as Tour For The Troops and the Get One Now Refer a Friend Tour, are all covered on AFRLive. Visitors can check the current event schedules, view event videos and download event photos. Reservists can submit a referral by clicking the hotlink button on AFRLive to access the Get One Now website and log-in to "refer a friend".

Social media activity regarding the Air Force Reserve is highlighted via video responses to the "Facebook Question of The Day". And users can share AFRLive content with their families and friends via Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

Be sure to check out AFRLive to stay connected to everything Air Force Reserve.

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WINGMAN TOOLKIT

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**NEW LOOK.
NEW TOOLS.**

SAME MISSION: BE A RESILIENT WINGMAN



The Wingman Toolkit is your training center for being a more resilient Wingman. The newly redesigned Website features loads of local, category-specific resources centered around the four pillars of comprehensive Airman fitness: physical, mental, social and spiritual.

Also featured on the Website: an interactive ACE training guide, where you can learn the suicide-intervention method to ASK, CARE, ESCORT. The Website is accessible to all Airmen as well as their friends and families. Check it out today at www.wingmantoolkit.org.



WINGMANTOOLKIT.ORG

The Wingman Toolkit is an Air Force Reserve Command Initiative. To learn more or to request information and materials, contact info@wingmantoolkit.org.

